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RUGELEY
Urban District Council

YEAR 1945

Medical Officer's Report

The Benhill Press, Rugeley

To The

RUGELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1945.

Apart from a troublesome epidemic of Scarlet Fever and a small outbreak of Diphtheria, the health of the District has been satisfactory.

The vital statistics compare favourably with those of the County as a whole.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding, and the housing situation remains acute.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. SMITH, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council, and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. CRADDOCK, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., who is also Collector of the Council's Rents.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area of the District	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	7,864
Rateable Value	£33,419
Sum represented by a penny rate	£135
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1945	2,219

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births	165	75	90
Legitimate	152	70	82
Illegitimate	13	5	8

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 21.0

Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.1

No Still Births were registered.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales 0.46

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	85	42	43

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 10.8

Death Rate for England and Wales 11.4

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Infantile Mortality Rate	48		
England and Wales	46		

Deaths from Cancer	14
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Cases	1

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever was epidemic from May to the end of the year. The epidemic began in Brereton Parish among children attending the C. of E. Junior and Infants' School. Closure of the school for two weeks in June had no effect in reducing the incidence of the disease. The highest incidence for any month was in August, when all schools were on holiday, and at this time cases were occurring in all parts of the District.

Although the epidemic showed none of the characteristics of a milk-borne infection, personnel of Dairies were examined and some swabbing of throats of possible carriers of the disease was carried out with negative results.

Most of the cases were mild in type, making control all the more difficult, as children sometimes attended school in the early stages of the disease. By the end of the year the epidemic had abated.

Diphtheria. In the last quarter of the year 21 cases of diphtheria were notified.

12 of these cases had the diagnosis changed after admission to hospital.

9 cases were confirmed in diagnosis, and of these cases 3 had been immunised.

1 child died of Diphtheria. He had not been immunised.

Immunisation

Throughout the year monthly sessions have been held at the Infant Welfare Centre and facilities given for the treatment to be carried out by medical practitioners free of cost if parents preferred this.

During the year:—

152 children of pre-school age were immunised.

6 children of school age were immunised.

In November, during the outbreak of Diphtheria, 210 children previously immunised were given a further injection.

At the end of the year it was estimated that

75% of children under school age were immunised.

90% of children of school age were immunised.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1945

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	123	111	1
Diphtheria	9	9	1
Whooping Cough	9	Nil	Nil
Measles	314	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia...	2	2	1
Pneumonia	3	3	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	Nil
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil

Analysis of Infectious Diseases classified according to age

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6–10	11–15	16–20	21–35	36–45	over
Scarlet Fever...		2	4	9	13	11	48	13	5	12	5	1
Diphtheria ...			3			1	3	2				
Measles ...	11	22	53	50	35	42	92	8	1			
Whooping Cough	2	1		4		1	1					
Pneumonia ...			1								1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1											1
Puerperal Pyrexia										2		
Erysipelas ...										1		

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1945 there were 63 cases on the register.

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
22	16	13	12

New Cases and Mortality, 1945

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
6-15	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
16-25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
36-45	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
46-55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
56-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	2	3	1	2	1	1	—

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	15	1	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	8	1	
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers premises)			
Total	23	2	Nil

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Other nuisances	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1
Total ...	2	2

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remedial under the Public Health Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES N. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Males	Females
	All Causes	42	43
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever		—
3	Scarlet fever	—	1
4	Whooping cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	1	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	1
7	Other forms of tuberculosis diseases ...	1	—
8	Syphilis	—	—
9	Influenza	—	—
10	Measles	—	—
11	Acute Polio-Wyelitis	—	—
12	Acute Inf-Encephalitis	1	—
13	Cancer of Bucca Cavity M. Heart F. ...	—	2
14	Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach ...	—	—
15	Cancer of Breast	—	2
16	Cancer of other sites	7	3
17	Diabetes	—	—
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions	4	4
19	Heart disease	7	13
20	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	1	1
21	Bronchitis	—	1
22	Pneumonia	4	1
23	Other respiratory diseases	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	—	—
25	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years) ...	—	—
26	Appendicitis	1	—
27	Other digestive diseases	1	2
28	Nephritis	—	—
29	Peurperal and post abortive sepsis ...	—	1
30	Other maternal causes	—	—
31	Premature birth	2	2
32	Congenital mal. birth injuries	1	1
33	Suicide	—	—
34	Road traffic accidents	1	1
35	Other violent causes	1	—
36	All other causes	7	7
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)—			
	Smallpox		
	Poliomyelitis		
	Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	(Total	5	3
	—(Legitimate	4	3
	(Illegitimate	1	—
Live Births	(Total	75	90
	—(Legitimate	70	82
	(Illegitimate	5	8
Stillbirths	(Total		
	—(Legitimate		
	(Illegitimate		
Population		7864	

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Fifteenth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1945.

Closet Accommodation

The Town area is mostly sewered, and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewering of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 pails and privies, and 131 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have water-closets to cesspools.

Public Cleansing

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special trailer sludge tank. 52 Cesspools were emptied by the Council's workmen during the year.

Ambulance Service

The Council have an Austin Ambulance. During the year the ambulance was used on 472 occasions, covering 8,816 miles, which is an average of 169 miles per week. The total driving time was 988 hours, which is an average of 19 hours per week.

Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Shops Acts

The Shops' Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc.

Sanitary Inspection of District

Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey ...	1985
Number of Final Notices issued	30
Number of Final Notices complied with	29
Number of Informal Notices issued	187
Number of Informal Notices complied with	157

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in above Notices

Drains and Water Closets amended in construction and/or cleansed	16
Dwelling Houses needing repair	28
Dwelling Houses Overcrowded	0
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	35
Scavenging	37
Offensive accumulations	18
Other matters	0
Removal of Caravan Dwellers	1
Shops Acts Sanitary Conveniences, etc.	0
Cesspools emptied, etc.	10
Burst Water Piping	19
New Water Service	11
Spouting	12
Pump	0

Infectious Diseases

Number of Rooms disinfected	132
Number of Schools disinfected	1
Number of Beds disinfected	3

Smoke Abatement

No action taken or found necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-Laws or Regulations

The Council have By-Laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district. There is a Tannery in the district. There are no underground sleeping places in the district. There are no By-Laws for: Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop-pickers.

Schools

In Rugeley Town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available and the schools have pail closets which are emptied every week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Housing

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts 50

Number of inspections made for that purpose 146

(2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 5

Number of inspections made for that purpose 15

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 5

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 0

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defected dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 12

3. Action under Statutory Powers

A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936, Sections 9 and 10.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served and requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Formal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 28

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:

(a) By owners 27

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 1

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the owners not to let them for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling houses demolished. They were houses in respect of which owners had given undertakings not to relet ... 0

4. **Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding**

(a)—(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1936	58
(ii)	Number of families living therein	58
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	370½
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	19
(c)—(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	14

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply. 70 visits have been paid to farms and dairies; and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. Four informal notices were served and complied with.

There are eighteen cowkeepers and Dairymen residing in the district, and ten Retail Purveyors whose dairies are outside our district. The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial Content and for tubercle bacilli.

(b) Meat and other foods.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses	2
Number of visits to Butchers' Shops, Grocery and Vegetable Shops, Fish Shop Stalls, etc.	1875
Number of Informal Notices served	14
Number of Informal Notices complied with	14

All cases of slaughtering are now carried out at Stafford Abattoir.

The following was found to be unfit and was destroyed:—36 lbs. of sausage, 22 lbs. of cheese, 25 lbs. fruit, 10lbs. meat, 20 stone of fish, 150 eggs, 60 tins of meat, 46 tins of fish, 36 tins of vegetables and 46 tins of milk.

(c) Adulteration, etc. This is not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. The Staffordshire County Council has provided laboratories and carry out such work.

Water Supply

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Company. The quantity is satisfactory. Samples are submitted twice a year to the County Bacteriologist and the County Analyst, and all samples are reported favourable. The supply is a constant one and does not have a plumbo-solvent action. Brereton Collieries Ltd. supply six houses and a farm with a supply of water from the Colliery. A sample of this water was found to be contaminated. Demolition orders have been placed on six of the houses, and Brereton Collieries have promised to provide a supply of the Council's water to the farm. Up to the present this has not been carried out.

Brereton Collieries have also promised to provide a supply of the Council''s water over the sinks of the two houses at The Levels, which are at present a long way from a stand-pipe.

At Etching Hill and Slitting Mill the tenants of about twenty houses have to carry South Staffs. Water a long distance from stand-pipes. In my opinion, water should be provided over the sinks in these houses, but it will be an expensive matter.

The remainder of the houses in the district are supplied by the South Staffs. Water Company's water. With the exception of a few which will be represented for demolition in the near future, the houses have the supply over the sink.

The following are reports on samples of the South Staffs. Water Company's water submitted on the 16th January, 1945:—

BACTERIOLOGIST'S REPORT

Count.—On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37 C.
4 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20-22 C.
9 colonies per ml.

Coli Aerogenies Content (presumptive coli). Nil per 100 ml. after 48 hours incubation at 37 C.

Remarks.—This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

ANALYST'S REPORT

	Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter dried at 212 F.	25.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	0.0010
Nitric Nitrogen	0.40
Chlorine	2.1
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 F.	0.003
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH Value	7.3

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality, but must be passed bacteriologically before being considered safe for drinking.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. T. G. Craddock.